



STORYWORLD

A MIDNIGHTTM OPERA

by Hans Steinbach

1



A Midnight Opera Act 1
created by Hans "Hanzo" Steinbach

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ISBN: 1-59816-265-9

First TOKYOPOP printing: November 2005

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA

A MIDNIGHT OPERA

ACT 1

CREATED BY
HANS "HANZO" STEINBACH



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

I sing.

I sang.

I song.

I song deep.

I song deep pain.

I song deep love.

I have songed since song was sung.

Each song a separate piece...

In a longer song...

A Midnight Opera...

...of my lovely, painful life.



Dassy, France
1562



...Because
they know
we were
among them.



IN THE NAME
OF HIS LORD
EMPEROR
FREEDOM! I
OF THE HOLY
ROMAN EMPIRE,
I COMMAND YOU
TO EMERGE
FROM THIS
ILLEGAL CHURCH
AND FACE
JUDGMENT!



YOU
CANNOT
ESCAPE
THE EYES
OF GOD,
NOR THE
SERVANTS
WHO FOLLOW
HIS WORD!

It was to be our end,
but I was too young
to know that as well.







DONG

*Paris, France
Present*



RUE MORGUE

Tonight: Einblick DelosLune

Needless
to say, I
survived.



*My first
passion has
always been
music.*



*I never
expected
it to bring
me fame.*



*Considering who
I am, perhaps
the fame is
dangerous...*



WE'VE
ARRIVED,
MONSIEUR
PELAUNE.



*Yes, it is
awfully fun.*









*Not an
entirely happy
love story.*









THE
HEATHENS
BURN...



...BUT THE
REMAINS HAVE
ESCAPED.





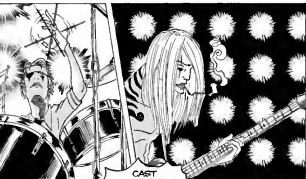






ARE
YOU
READY
TO
ROCK
#!!!





CAST
AWAY YOUR
PRIDE, THERE'S
NOWHERE TO HIDE.
SAY FAREWELL TO THE
SICKENING SADNESS.
TASTE THE BUSS OF
THE FLICKERING
MADNESS.



YOU SEE A
MONSTER IN ME
AND I SEE A
MONSTER
IN YOU!



FREE THE
KILLING BEAST
WITHIN. THE FINAL
SHOW IS ABOUT
TO BEGIN. THROUGH
THE SLAYING OF
MY KIN, I SHALL
JUSTIFY MY SIN!





I SEE A
MONSTER
IN YOU
AND YOU SEE
A MONSTER
IN ME!

*Modesty aside,
I am very
good.*





YOU SEE
A MONSTER
IN ME AND I
SEE A MONSTER
IN YOU! I SEE
A MONSTER IN
YOU AND YOU
SEE A MONSTER
IN ME!



"An elegant synthesis of tragedy and rock." ★★★★★

ETHNICK.

TOUCH ME!

"He's an incredible gothic presence." ★★★★★

SIGN MY BLOOD

"His pain seeps into your
blood and swirls through
your body." ★★★★★

AGGGGH!

"It's just a bunch of manliness,
pretensions, Euro-trash druck."









*After a century
and a half of
thrill-despair, I
have found love
again.*



*It seems
I am running
late.*

TOX



*She doesn't
like that
I smoke.*



*She says
that i'll kill
me one day.*



*She may
be right.*



ULULULU

TARGET
LOCATED



ULULULU ULULULU



ULULULU ULULULU

BEEP BEEP



*I should
really quit.*



I SEE
HIM. AN
EASY
SHOT.



OH
MY GOD!
JERN-
PIERRE--!!
GROGH!



CHARLES!
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!



THEY'RE
EVERY-
WHERE!
THEY'RE
EVERY-
WHERE!!
GAGGGKKK!







Howwwwwwllllll





*Finally,
I'm no longer
alone.*



*Dassy, France
1609*



*The remains of the
Church of Salvation*



FOR
NEARLY
FIFTY
YEARS, OUR
KIND HAS
STRUGGLED
TO LIVE
PEACEFULLY
WITHIN A
EUROPE
THAT WOULD
NEVER
US.



ALL
PERSONS
ARE NO LONGER
FUGITIVES
FROM THE
LAW. OUR KING,
HENRY IV OF
ARCADE, HAS
CHAMPIONED
FOR OUR
LEGITIMACY
AND HAS WON.

WE ARE
AGAIN
FREE.

OUR
ARCADE
KING
HAS BEEN
FOUND.

HURRAH
HURRAH

AND NOW IT
IS TIME FOR
CELEBRATION.



*It was indeed a
glorious night.*

*I remember it
with bitter joy.*









MR. LEBRON!
DON'T
HURT
HIM!



GRAAGH!!





YOU
ARE OUR
~~ARMY~~
AND THIS IS
OUR HOME
WHERE YOU
ARE FREE
TO LIVE—



UNDER THE
WATCHFUL
EYES OF
AD



YES, OF
COURSE

ADAM
COME
JOIN US
IN OUR
~~ARMY~~
TONIGHT
WE MARK A
MOMENTOUS
OCCASION.



*DELLAE,
EALAE,
DANCING,
FOOT,
WINE.*

WE'VE
BONE IT,
LEROUX.

ARE
YOU NOT
PROUD
OF US?

MORTAL MAN
IS A *PICKLE*
BEAST.



HAVE
FAITH,
BROTHER.
THIS WILL
BE THE
DAWN OF A
PEACEFUL
AGE.



*But King Henry III
--our champion--
was stabbed to death by a
Catholic fanatic in 1610...*

*...and I would not return
to music again for...
a long, long time.*



*A Midnight Opera of -
my lovely, painful life.*

YOU BURNED
THE PLACE
DOWN TONIGHT,
HOT STUFF!



Her name is
Dahlia Whyte,
a woman with
sart and class.



Perfect
in every
way.







I LOVE YOU
AND I WANT
TO SPEND
THE REST
OF MY LIFE
WITH YOU. RUN
AWAY WITH
ME. *ANNA*



I'LL
FINISH MY
LAST SHOW
TOMORROW
NIGHT...

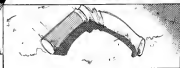
AND
WE CAN
LEAVE ON
A RED EYE
AFTER-
WARD.

MEET ME AT
THE AIRPORT
TODAY. I'VE
A SUITCASE
PACKED, YOUR
PASSPORT
READY.

AND...



SO
YOU'RE IN
LOVE WITH
ME, *JOE*





Paris
1850



YOU CANNOT
BE IN *LOVE*
WITH HER,
ED



ADMIRATION,
RESPECT,
APPRECIATION.
I CAN UNDER-
STAND ALL
OF THESE
BUT THEY ARE
HARDLY *LOVE*.
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR US TO
LOVE.



THIS
ALLIANCE
WITH ~~SPERA~~
HAS TOUCHED
YOU WITH
~~AGONY~~



YOUR
ATTENTION
TO THE GAME
HAS WAVED
SIGNIFICANTLY
OVER THE LAST
HUNDRED YEARS,
BUT I HAVE
CHOSEN TO
~~EXERCISE~~
~~PATIENCE~~
NOW THIS--



THE THREAT
IS OVER, LEROUX.
WE HAVE DONE
WHAT WE NEEDED
TO DO. WE MADE
EUROPE SAFE
FOR US.

NO ONE IS
HUNTING US
ANYMORE.



BUT THEY'LL
NEVER BE ABLE
TO REAPUS.



WHAT WE
ONCE WERE
TO THEM NO
LONGER
REAPUS

THEY'LL
ALWAYS BE
HUNTING US
REAPUS.

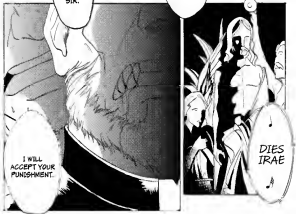


Paris
Present













GOODBYE,
LOVERBOY.



*She
never
gave
me an
answer.*



*Come to
think of it,
I don't know
what I was
expecting.*





St. Germain
Hospital



Even just
a "maybe"
would have
been nice.



SHIT



Some kind
of indication.











*She's
going to
say yes.*





*But Hector
Doesn't say
much.*

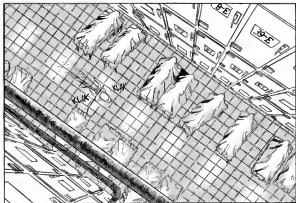


*I suppose
that's why I
trust him.*



*It's crowded
tonight.*









*Maybe
it is
impossible
for us to
truly love.*



*That
would
suck.*



*But what's
to worry...*





*Thank you,
Hector.*



*You allow me
my sleep.*



*Non è
un'illusione
eppure il
palco mio
che sento il
cuore in quel
l'attende...*



*Preparati
Quando
preparati
tempo!*

*Ma tu preparati quello
sopra? E allora?
Ma tu preparati?*

*Amore e
quella maffia.*

Amore

Donna



Christine!
Christine,
qu'est-ce
qui se passe?!



Leyrand!



Christine!
Mon dieu,
Christine!

CLIP



CLIP

CLIP

CLIP



SMACK



I LOVE
YOU DAS
EIN!



AUCH!

I'M
GOING
TO
RIP
OUT
YOUR
HEART!



I'M GOING
TO SPIN
YOUR BONES
TO PAST!
I'M GOING
TO—

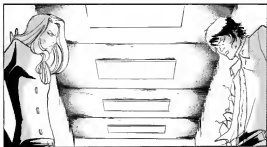




A lot
stronger.



I CAME TO
TALK







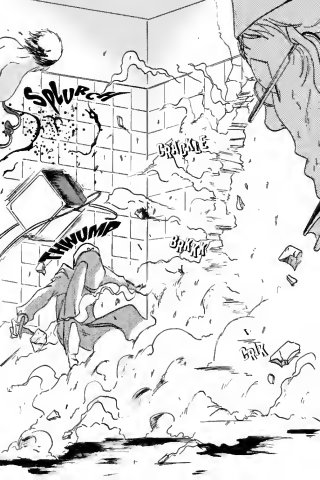




I've never
been a victim
before.

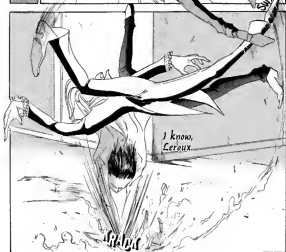


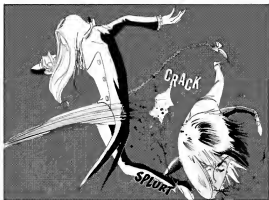
















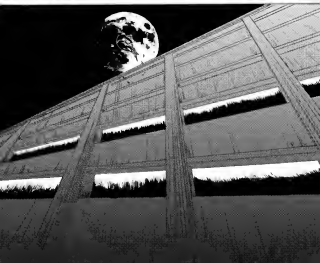
*I can't beat
my little
brother.*

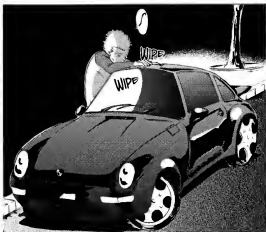


*But I can
drag him
down...*



*...down
to hell!*







Huh?

KAPATSHHHH

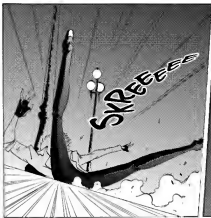






*He can make
acts of sheer
brutality and
violence...*













*He can see it
in my eyes.*







*I'm
not
calm.*



*I want to
kill him.*

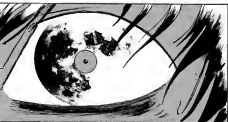




*What
Something's
happened...*



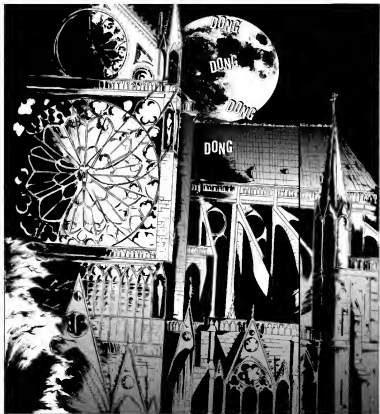
Dahlia...



Christina...









*That's right,
Lesson.*



HEH.



*Now I am
the beast
who must
be caged.*







DID YOU
GET IT ALL
OUT OF YOUR
SYSTEM?



I NEED A
SMOKE







I ~~ADAPTED~~ WHAT
HAPPENED TO
CHRISTINE. AND I
CAN ~~WAIL~~ AT YOU
DECLARATIONS OF
MY ~~INNOCENCE~~,
BUT I KNOW THAT
THEY WOULD BE
POINTLESS AND,
TO A CERTAIN
DEGREE,
INGENUOUS.



I HAVE
~~RESPECTED~~
YOUR WISHES, EIN.
FOR ~~ONE HUNDRED~~
AND FIFTY YEARS
I DIDN'T FOLLOW
YOU. I DIDN'T TRY
TO DRAG YOU BACK.
I SIMPLY WEPT AT
MY ~~FOLLY~~.

I WEPT SO
MUCH, THAT I WAS
~~ADAPTED~~ TO WHAT WAS
HAPPENING AROUND ME.
AND SO IT ~~CAME~~ TO PASS
THAT I MUST NOW APPEAL
TO YOUR ~~GREATER~~
SENSE OF
PURPOSE.



I HAVE NO
~~GREATER~~
SENSE OF
PURPOSE
LEFT. I'M DUMB
AND IN LOVE
AND, FOR THE
FIRST TIME
IN MY LIFE,
~~SELFISH~~. I
DON'T OWE
YOU A THING.



LAST
NIGHT, IN
THE ALLEY
OUTSIDE OF
THE ~~JOE~~
APPROX,
I SAVED
YOUR
LIFE.



WELL,
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH,
LEROUX. I
APPRECIATE
THAT A LOT.



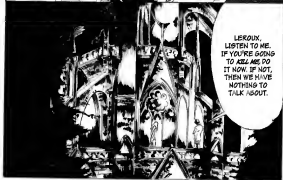
IT'S
THE ORDER
THEY ARE HERE
AGAIN TO
DESTROY US.



SO SHACK 'EM
AROUND GIVE 'EM
A BLOODY NOSE, AND
THEY'LL TAKE OFF
FOR ANOTHER
COUPLE HUNDRED
YEARS.



THAT
ISN'T ALL,
EIN.



LEROUX,
LISTEN TO ME.
IF YOU'RE GOING
TO KILL ME DO
IT NOW. IF NOT,
THEN WE HAVE
NOTHING TO
TALK ABOUT.



WHEN
YOU LEFT,
*ELIZABETH
BATHORY*
BECAME MY
STRENGTH.
SHE WANTED
MY LOVE.



I COULD
NOT ~~GIVE~~
HER THAT.

BUT
I COULD
GIVE HER MY
~~TRUST~~ AND
WITH IT, SHE
TOOK YOUR
PLACE AS
~~LEADER~~





I'M
SORRY,
EINBLICK.



I HAD
INTENDED TO
LEAVE YOU BE
FOREVER.



I AM IN LOVE,
LEROUX, AGAIN.
THE ~~ACCEPT~~ FELT
BEFORE SEEMED
INTERMINABLE, BUT
IT DID PASS. I
STILL CARRY IT
AROUND AS A HEAVY
GUILT. BUT AT LEAST
I HAVE ALLOWED
MYSELF TO LOVE
AGAIN.

IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR US TO
LOVE, ESH.



IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR US TO DO
ANYTHING BUT
FIGHT THIS
WAR.

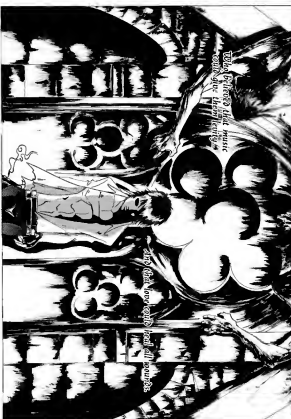




*A Western story of
my love's seduction.*

*Like the female takes pain
from history and love.*

*and the female
imaginations of love.*



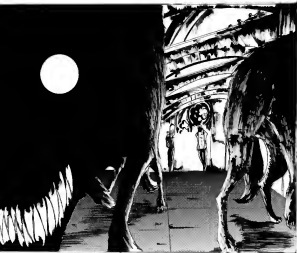
*Black birds that music
could give them love.*

and that love could lead all rounds.

MY HEART
IS FAR TOO
WEAK FOR
ME TO LEAD.



IT SOUNDS LIKE
IT MIGHT BE TIME
FOR US TO BE
NEEDER



ARE
YEAH.
I JUST
FOUND
OUT IT'S
HIS LAST
SHOW.







She said
yes.



Shirley,
my love

How do I
explain that
I still love
you...



HIYA,
STRANGER.

...without
telling you
the truth...



*without
telling you
who I am...*

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
WHAT I'M
HEARING!



YOUR
HEART'S
MELTING
FOR ME
ONE NIGHT,
THEN ~~GOES~~
THE NEXT

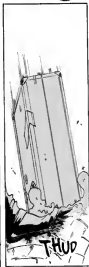


PAHLIA,
DO YOU
REALLY
THINK I'D
~~CHOOSE~~
THESE?



I LOVE
YOU.

...without
telling you
anything...



THUD



YOU
ALWAYS
HAVE
CONTROL
OVER YOUR
CHOICES,
EIN.

ONLY A
FOOL THINK
OTHERWISE.



Not a
fool
at all...









*This is not
my war.*

*I'D FOLLOW
YOU INTO HELL
ITSELF IF
I HAD TO...*

*Good luck,
Leroux.*

Good--

NO NO
I WAS SO
CLOSE.
WHY WON'T
ANYONE
LET ME RUN
AWAY?

WHAT THE
HELL IS
GOING ON,
EDIE?

BECAUSE
YOU ARE
THE KID
SPAWN OF
LUCIFER
EDIE



I HAVE
CHASED YOU
ACROSS LAND
AND THROUGH
TIME. I HOLD MY
SINCE SIMPLY
TO BE ABLE
TO HUNT YOU
FOREVER
IF I HAD
TO



AND HERE YOU ARE,
FINALLY, BEFORE ME.
WELSHMAN EINHOLM
DELAUNE, IN THE NAME
OF THE APOSTOLIC
CHURCH YOU ARE UNDER
ARREST, TO STAND TRIAL
IN A COURT OF THE
CHURCH WHERE YOU
WILL BE FOUND GUILTY
OF POSSESSION BY THE
DEVIL AND CONDEMNED
TO THE STAKE UNTIL YOU
ARE DEAD.



BACK IN
THESE DAYS
PEOPLE CALL ME
THE BUTTER
KNIFE



LET'S
GO,
PAHLIA

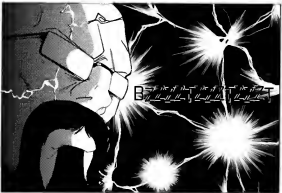








I WILL
REMEMBER YOU
ALL, DOCTORS
INCLUDING
THAT WITCH
ANTHONY!



STAY CLOSE
TO ME, DANLIA.
WE STILL HAVE
A PLANE TO
CATCH.

ARE
YOU IN
SOME
TROUBLE
EDN?



ARE
YOU IN
SOME
~~TRICKLE~~
DOWN?



KILL
THEM
ALL



BZZZZTZZZZTZZZZT













ELIZABETH,
WE LOST
EIN. THE
ORDER GOT
INVOLVED. AND
SO DID YOUR
OLD FLAME.
LEROUX. I AM
SURE THAT
DELIGHTS
YOU TO
NO END.



Leroux and I wanted
to create a perfect society,
a seamless integration of
humans and the undead.



*I was stupid
to think that
it could last
without me.*





I can always
looking for
you...



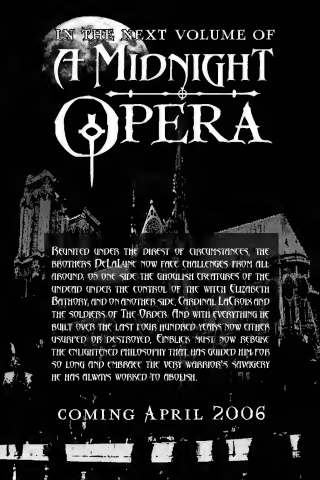
but I was not
born to love.



LEONARD
IS BACK.



A man whom I consider greatly once told me that a being like me could never really truly love. And maybe he was right. Maybe my immersion in the world of humanity ~~opened~~ my mind to the possibility of love, love as an intellectual concept. But no matter how I strive myself in the highest spheres of the romantic, the heart in me remains cold...and forever will.



IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

A MIDNIGHT OPERA

Brummed under the direst of circumstances, the brothers DeLalune now face challenges from all around, on one side the ghoulish creatures of the undead under the control of the witch Elizabeth Bathory, and on another side, Cardinal LaCroix and the soldiers of The Order. And with everything he built over the last four hundred years now either usurped or destroyed, Emblick must now rebuse the enlightened philosophy that has guided him for so long and embrace the very warrior's savagery he has always worked to abolish.

COMING APRIL 2006

THE ORIGINAL A MIDNIGHT OPERA

Hans Steinbach

came to us in the fall of 2004 with an idea for a different kind of gothic horror story, one steeped in history and lore and rich in character. He presented us with some of the most incredible character designs and sequential art we had seen in the fledgling days of our foray into original English language manga. Hans' artistic style is influenced greatly by European and American artists. But his storytelling style--contemplative, stirring musings on the human condition--has been shaped primarily by exposure to Japanese manga. The following pages feature his original submission to TOKYOPOP; the first glimpse we had of an artist we are now proud to herald as one of our original creators.













G R R R



I HATE IT
WHEN YOU
BITCHES
SNEAK UP
FROM BEHIND
LIKE THAT...



RATTA
TATTA

RATTA
TATTA



TRES
BIEN!
BRAVO!
BRAVO!
BRAVO...
ENBlick!



CLAP
CLAP

CLAP
CLAP



NOW I'LL
TEAR YOU
TO PIECES,
LIKE I DID
TO YOUR
PRECIOUS
CHRISTINE!



LEROUX DELALUNE...
AS LONG AS ONE OF
MY HEARTS IS STILL
BEATING, I'LL CONTINUE
TO HUNT YOU DOWN LIKE
THE DOG YOU ARE.

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I LUV HALLOWEEN

I LUV HALLOWEEN

Written by Keith Giffen, comic book pro and English language adapter of *Battle Royale* and *Battle Vixens*.

Join the misadventures of a group of particularly disturbing trick-or-treaters as they go about their macabre business on Halloween night. Blaming the apples they got from the first house of the evening for the bad candy they've been receiving all night, the kids plot revenge on the old bag who handed out the funky fruit. Riotously funny and always wickedly shocking—who doesn't love Halloween?



Preview the manga at:
www.TOKYOPOP.com/iluvhalloween

THIS TIME IT'S NOT ONLY
ABOUT THE CANDY...



MARK OF THE SUCCUBUS

BY ASHLEY RAITT & TRENE FLORES

Maeva, a succubus-in-training, is sent to the human world to learn how to hone her skills of seduction. But things get complicated when she sets her sights on Aiden, a smart but unmotivated student at her new high school. Meanwhile, the Demon World has sent a spy to make sure Maeva doesn't step out of line. And between Aiden's witchy girlfriend, his nutty best friend, and Demon World conspiracies, Maeva is going to be lucky to make it out of our world alive!

Here is a Gothic romantic fantasy set in one of the most menacing worlds known to humans: high school.



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**VAN HUNTER
MANGA CREATED
WITH MANGA STUDIO**



BY FUYUMI SORYO

MARS

I used to do the English adaptation for *MARS* and loved working on it. The art is just amazing—Fuyumi Soryo draws these stunning characters and beautiful backgrounds to boot. I remember this one spread in particular where Rei takes Kira on a ride on his motorcycle past this factory, and it's all lit up like Christmas and the most gorgeous thing you've ever seen—and it's a factory! And the story is a super-juloy soap opera that kept me on the edge of my seat just dying to get the next volume every time I'd finish one.

—Elizabeth Hurchalla, Sr. Editor



BY SHOHEI MINABE

DEAD END

Everyone I've met who has read *Dead End* admits to becoming immediately immersed and obsessed with Shohei Minabe's unforgettable manga. If David Lynch, Clive Barker and David Cronenberg had a love child that was forced to create a manga in the bowels of a torture chamber, then *Dead End* would be the fruit of its labor. The unpredictable story follows a grungy young man as he pieces together shattered fragments of his past. Think you know where it's going? Well, think again!

—Troy Lewter, Editor

